

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



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John J. Johnson  
Executive Director  
Kentucky Commission on Human Rights  
332 West Broadway, Suite 700  
Louisville, KY 40202

Dear Director Johnson:

I join with pastors throughout the Commonwealth in returning thanks to Almighty God for the largely African-American leadership that has guided and directed the first fifty years of the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights. Many of Kentucky's prominent African-American ministers, who personally experienced racial discrimination in housing and employment, took time from their demanding ministries to provide the inspired leadership on this Commission that has prevented thousands of others from having to face similar types of racial discrimination.

In congratulating the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights upon its Golden Anniversary, it is important to point out that what is most "golden" about this Commission is the fact that those who have led the Commission during its first fifty years embraced the "Golden Rule" as their standard for serving the people of the Commonwealth.

When Governor Edward T. Breathitt signed the Kentucky Civil Rights Act in 1966, he did so in great measure because of the impact of the Gospel of Jesus Christ on his life. Governor Breathitt could empathize with the plight of the disadvantaged and the oppressed because he had taken seriously the words of his Lord Jesus in Matthew 7:12, "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets." Because of his bold stand for this timeless biblical truth, the Governor was willing to accept personal and political risks in order to glorify God by placing what was right before what was politically expedient.

To those who will lead the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights during the next fifty years, I challenge you to remember with appreciation the legacy of the many Godly leaders that have preceded you.

Blessings,

*Tom Riner*